

# Transportation Funding Initiative



Public Hearing  
April 26, 2022



# Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Community Re-Engagement
- Transportation Initiative Report
- Economic Impact Update
- Key Questions
- Review of Legal Documents
  - Ordinance
  - Resolution
- Summary
- Public Hearing
- Requested Action





# Presentation Outline

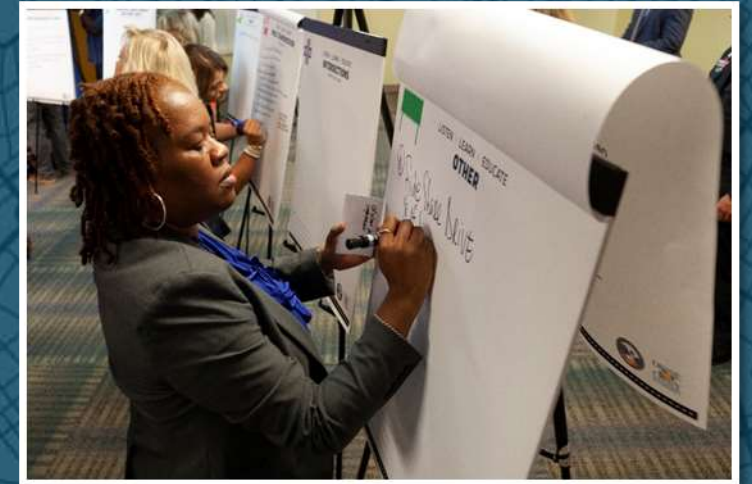
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# Community Re-Engagement Results

- 270 Meetings/”Touch Points”
- Approximately 10,000 Participants
- An estimated 8,000 comments and recommendations
- Over 19,000 surveys completed
- Survey results by district provided





# Survey Results - Key Findings

## *Current transportation challenges:*

- Traffic Congestion
- Cost of Commute
- Commute Time
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety
- Transit Needs





# Survey Results - Key Findings

## *Top priorities for improving transportation in Orange County:*

- **Building a Mass Transit System**  
(to include buses, trains and other modes of transportation)
- **Improving traffic signal timing**
- **Increasing use of new technologies to improve transportation efficiency and safety**
- **Maintaining and repairing existing roads**
- **Increasing pedestrian safety**
- **More frequent service and access to more places**
- **Improving SunRail System**
- **Widening existing roads**





# Survey Results - Key Findings

## *LYNX Bus Service Priorities:*

- Convenient LYNX bus stops and routes
- Increase access to more places
- Service connecting to SunRail System
- Service from home to work
- Increased frequency
- Service from home to airport
- More express service/fewer stops





# Survey Results - Key Findings

## *SunRail System Priorities:*

- Evening and weekend service
- Increased Frequency/Access to more places
- Service from home to airport
- East – West route
- Longer Service hours
- SunRail stop location
- Service from home to work





# LYNX Testimonials



Florida Avenue, NE Multimodal Transportation Project 3D Rendering



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# Transit Plan

- Plan Objectives
- Enhanced Service
- Expanded Facilities
- Implementation





# Transit Plan

## *Plan Objectives*

- Build a comprehensive network of mobility options
- Create a high frequency core network connecting activity and employment centers along regional commercial corridors
- Upgrade and expand passenger facilities and support infrastructure
- Enhance SunRail service as the regional north-south transit spine
- Implement fast, frequent regional express services that greatly improve travel times

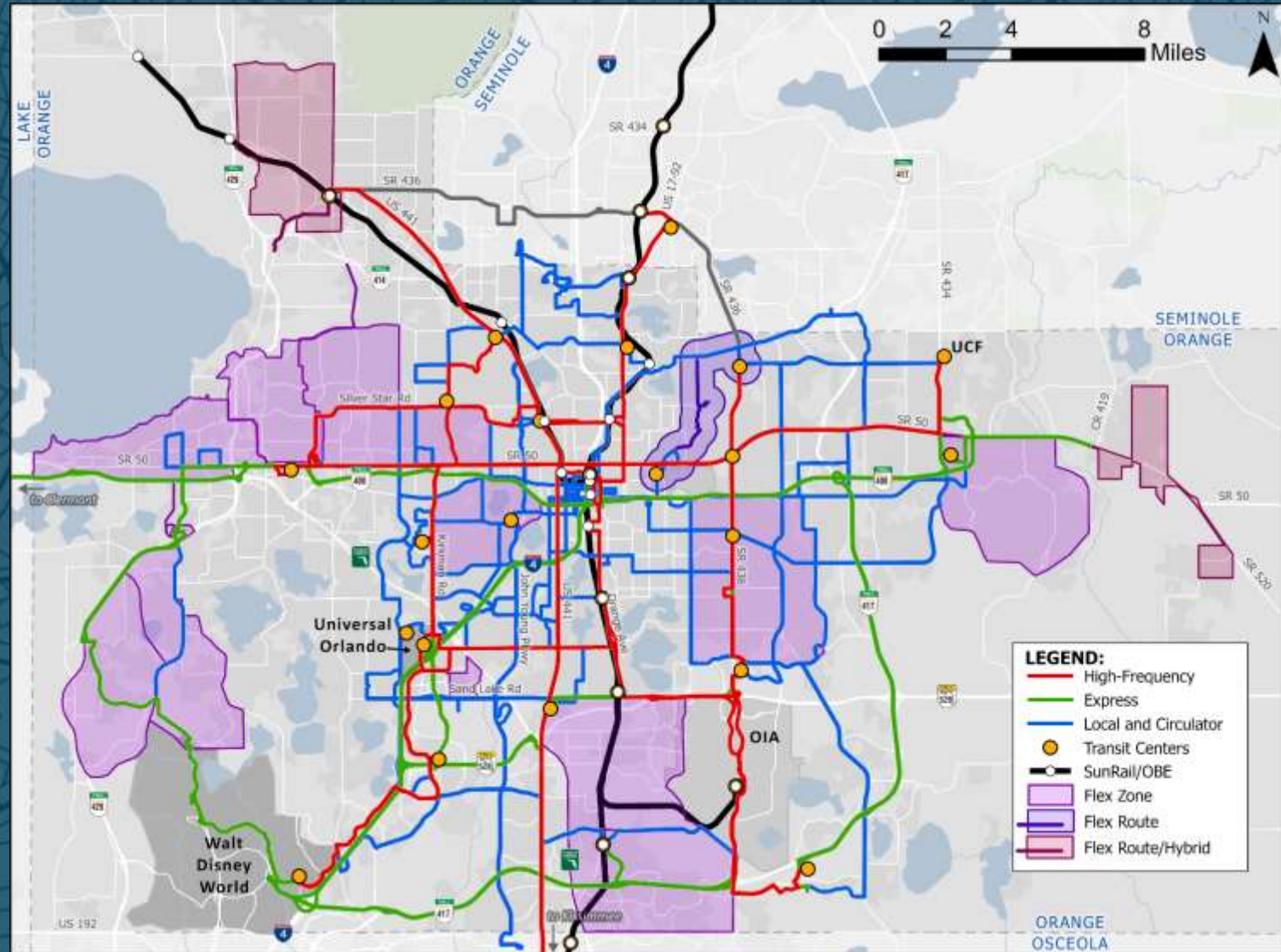




# Transit Plan

## *Enhanced Service*

- New High Capacity Transit Corridors
- New High Speed Regional Express Routes
- New Flexible Shared Ride zones
- Expansion of SunRail Service
- Paratransit enhancements to support seniors and disabled population
- Overall Bus Frequency Improvements



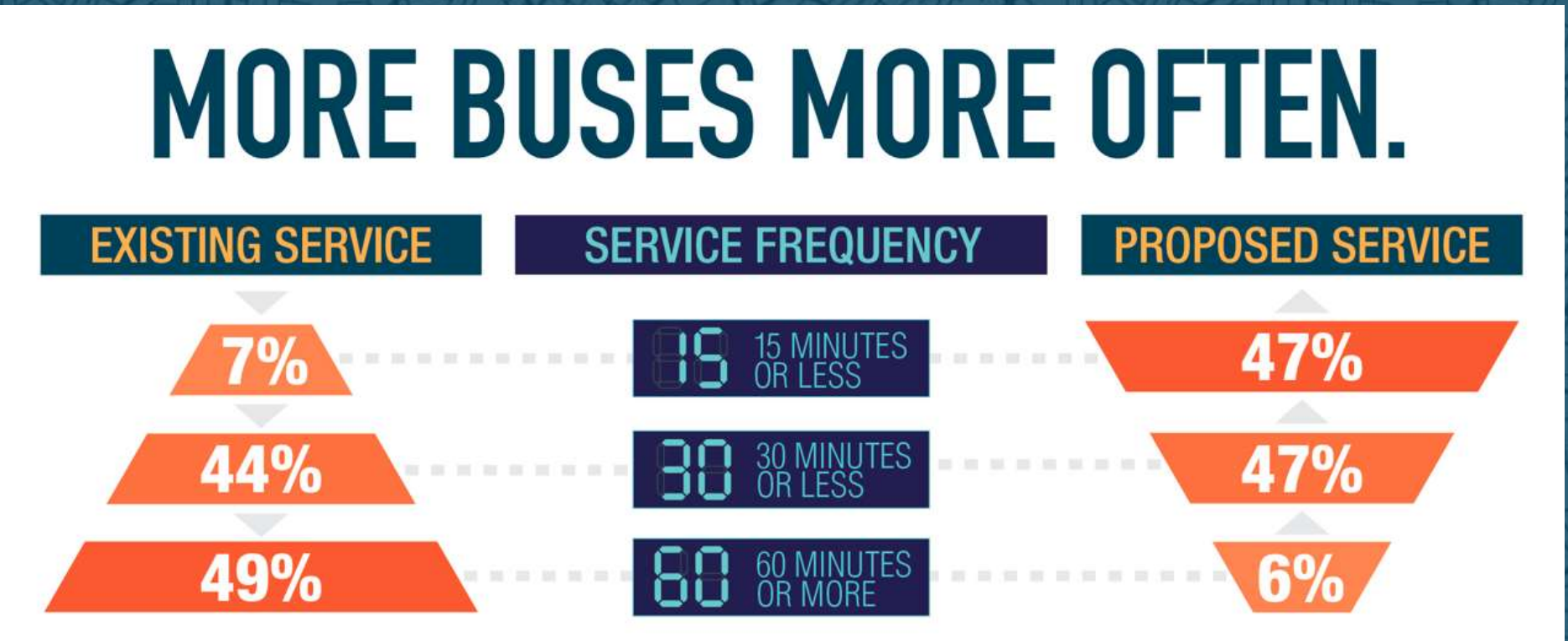


# Transit Plan

## Enhanced Service

### Overall Bus Frequency Improvements

# MORE BUSES MORE OFTEN.

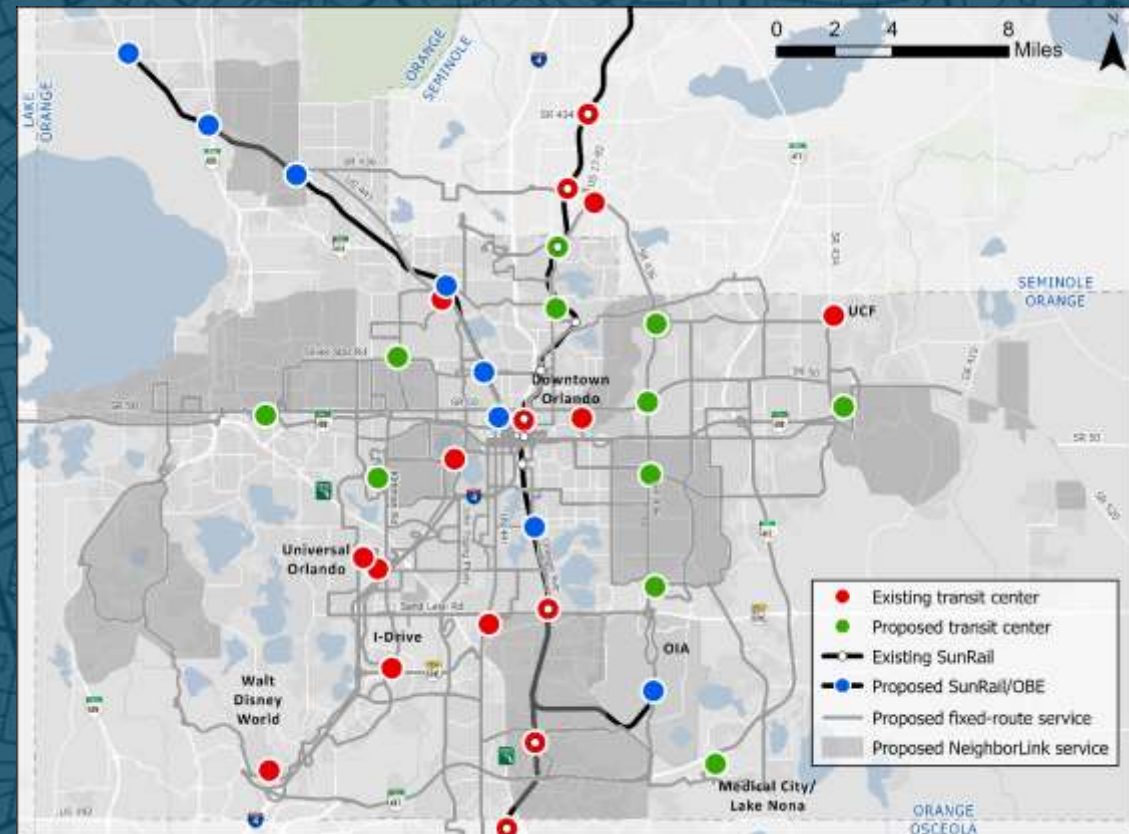




# Transit Plan

## *Expanded Facilities*

- Expanded Bus Fleet and Trains
- More Transfer Centers
- New and Upgraded Bus Shelters
- New High Capacity Transit and Complete Streets
- New Operations and Maintenance Facilities





# Transit Plan

## *Implementation*

- Capital projects include:
  - Vehicle Acquisition
  - Maintenance Facilities
  - Transit Centers
  - Rail stations and track improvements
  - High Capacity Corridor Stations and dedicated lanes
  - Bus Shelters
  - Park & Ride Facilities
- Bus Fleet migration to Zero Emission vehicles
- Service Expansions throughout the 20 year timeframe
- New, equitable and enhanced service throughout the County





# Transit Fare Reduction Program

- Expand existing Fare Reduction Program
- Eligibility Criteria (e.g., income-based)
- Increase accessibility to discount program





# Transportation Plan/Improvements



**Safety**



**Major  
Roadway  
Improvements**



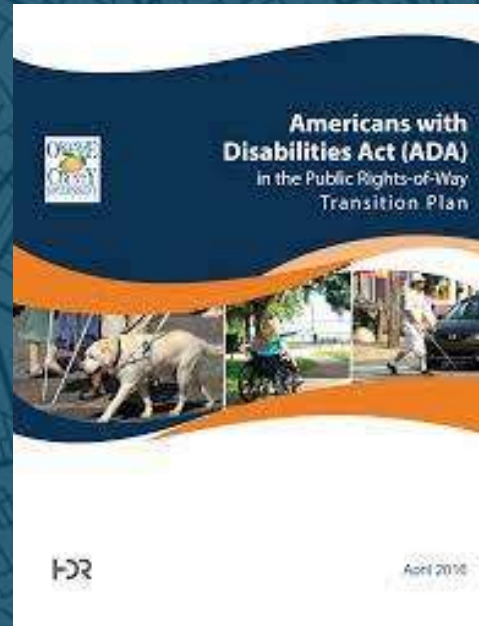
**Operations &  
Maintenance**



# Transportation Plan/Improvements

## Safety

- Pedestrians & Bicyclists
- ADA Barrier Mitigation
- Lighting
- Intersections
- Technology





# Transportation Plan/Improvements

## *Major Roadways Improvements*

- Complete Streets
- Provide Network Connections
- Reduce Traffic Congestion
- Bridge Replacement





# Transportation Plan/Improvements

## *Operations & Maintenance Program*

- Maintain 2,700 Miles of Roadways
- Increased Frequency of Roadway Resurfacing to Every 10 Years
- Enhanced Drainage/Pond Maintenance to Prevent Flooding
- Bridge Repair
- Landscaping



**Resurfacing**



**Bridge Maintenance**



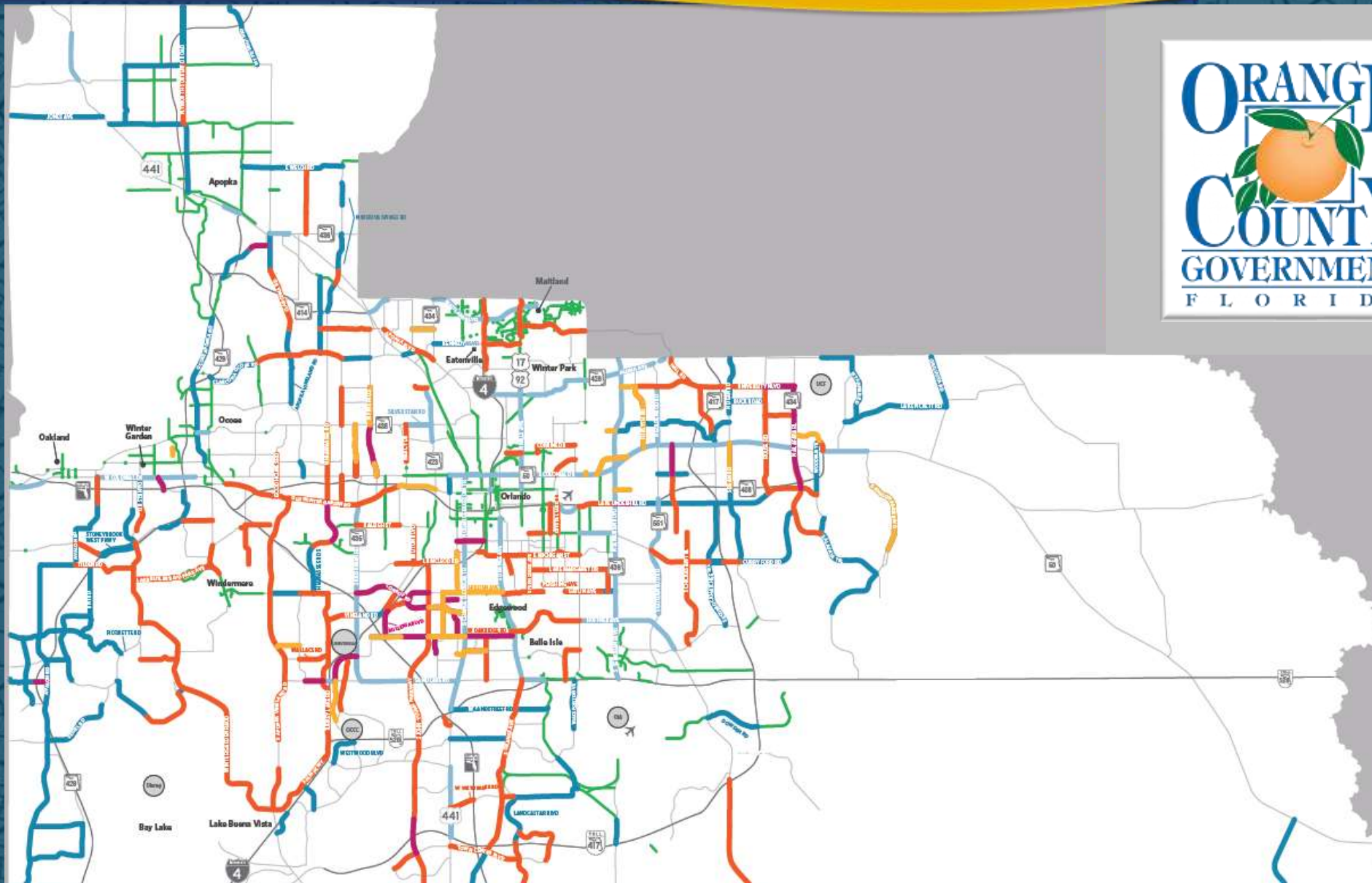
# Transportation Plan/Improvements

- 195 Miles of Intersection and Complete Street Safety Improvements
- 25 Miles of Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvements
- 28 Intersection Safety Improvements
- County Technology Improvements
  - 40 Transportation Technology Projects
  - 80 New Traffic Signals
  - 203 New Mast Arm Upgrades
- 154 Miles of Major Roadway Improvements
- Increased Frequency of Roadway Resurfacing to every 10 years from 12-15





# Transportation Plan/Improvements



**Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Projects**

**Intersection Operational Safety Projects**

**Vehicle Safety Projects**

**Roadway Capacity Projects - County**

**Roadway Capacity Projects - State**

**Municipal Projects**



# Summary



## *Summary of Needs*

- County - \$7.2 Billion
- Transit - \$11.4 Billion\*
- Municipal - \$1.8 Billion
- Other Needs
- Program Management - 4%



***Total Transportation Needs***

***\$21 Billion over 20 Years***

\*Includes Federal, State and Local Revenues



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# The Impact of the Proposed Penny Sales Tax on Orange County's Economy

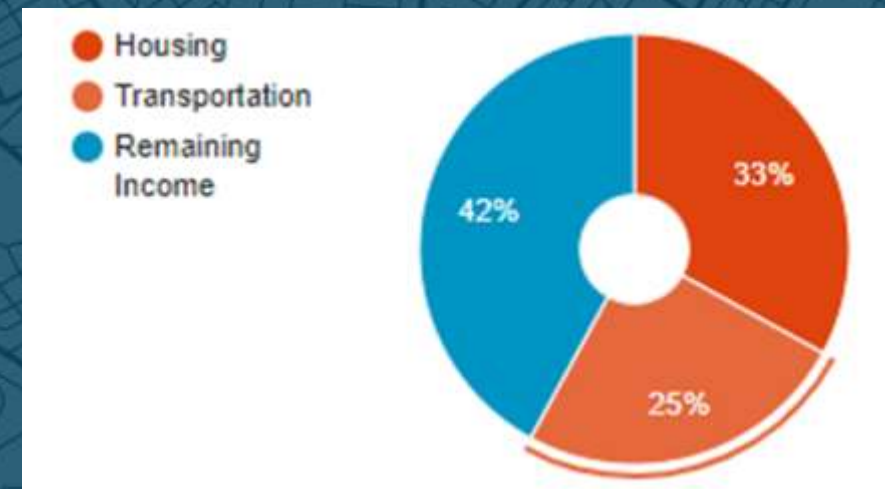
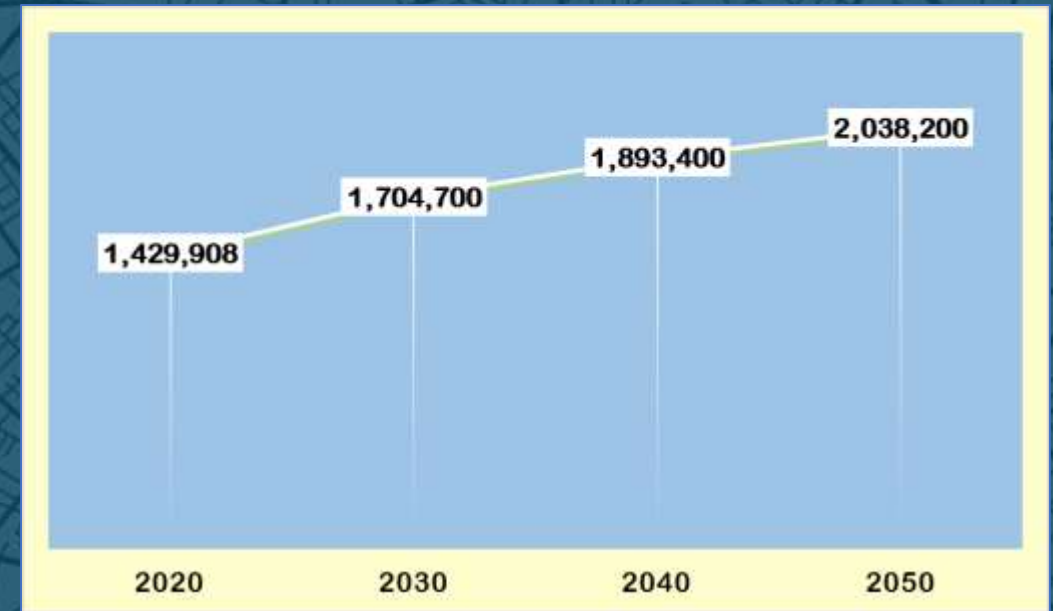


**Luis Nieves-Ruiz, FAICP**  
**Economic Development Manager**  
**East Central Florida Regional Planning Council**



# Current Trends

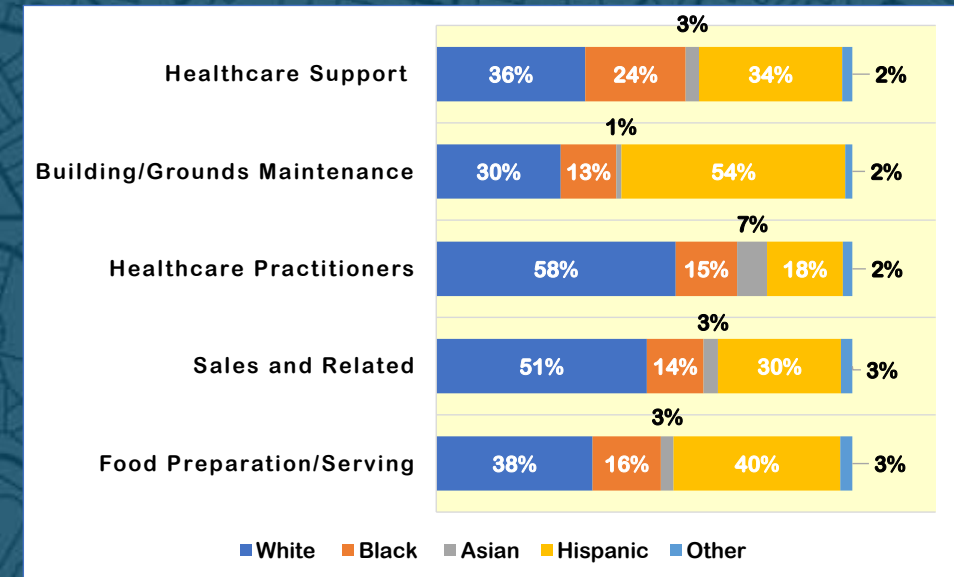
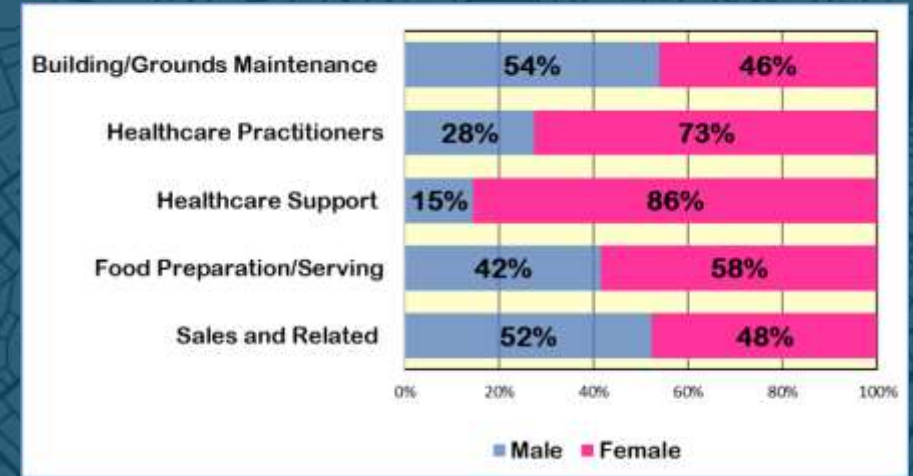
- High Population Growth Rate
- Orlando Metro Commuters spent 61 hours sitting in traffic in 2019
- Typical Orange County household spends 25% of its budget on transportation versus 17% nationally





# Current Trends

- Bus transit ridership mainly comprised of Low-income service workers
- Workforce is overwhelmingly female and mostly comprised of people of color
- Potential LYNX fare reduction program for transit-dependent, low wage riders would offset cost of sales tax
- Over 51% of the tax would be paid by visitors to Orange County





# Scenario Results



Economic Indicators	Do Nothing Scenarios (annually)	Penny Sales Tax Increase (annually)
Jobs	↓ (10,605)	5,024
Economic Output	↓ (\$3.2 Billion)	\$4 Billion
Personal Income	↓ (\$945 Million)	\$910 Million
Gross Domestic Product	↓ (\$1.9 Billion)	\$2.4 Billion

Results should be interpreted based on the REMI model's economic forecast





# The Impact of the Proposed Penny Sales Tax on Orange County's Economy



**Luis Nieves-Ruiz, FAICP**  
**Economic Development Manager**  
**E-mail: [luis@ecfrpc.org](mailto:luis@ecfrpc.org)**



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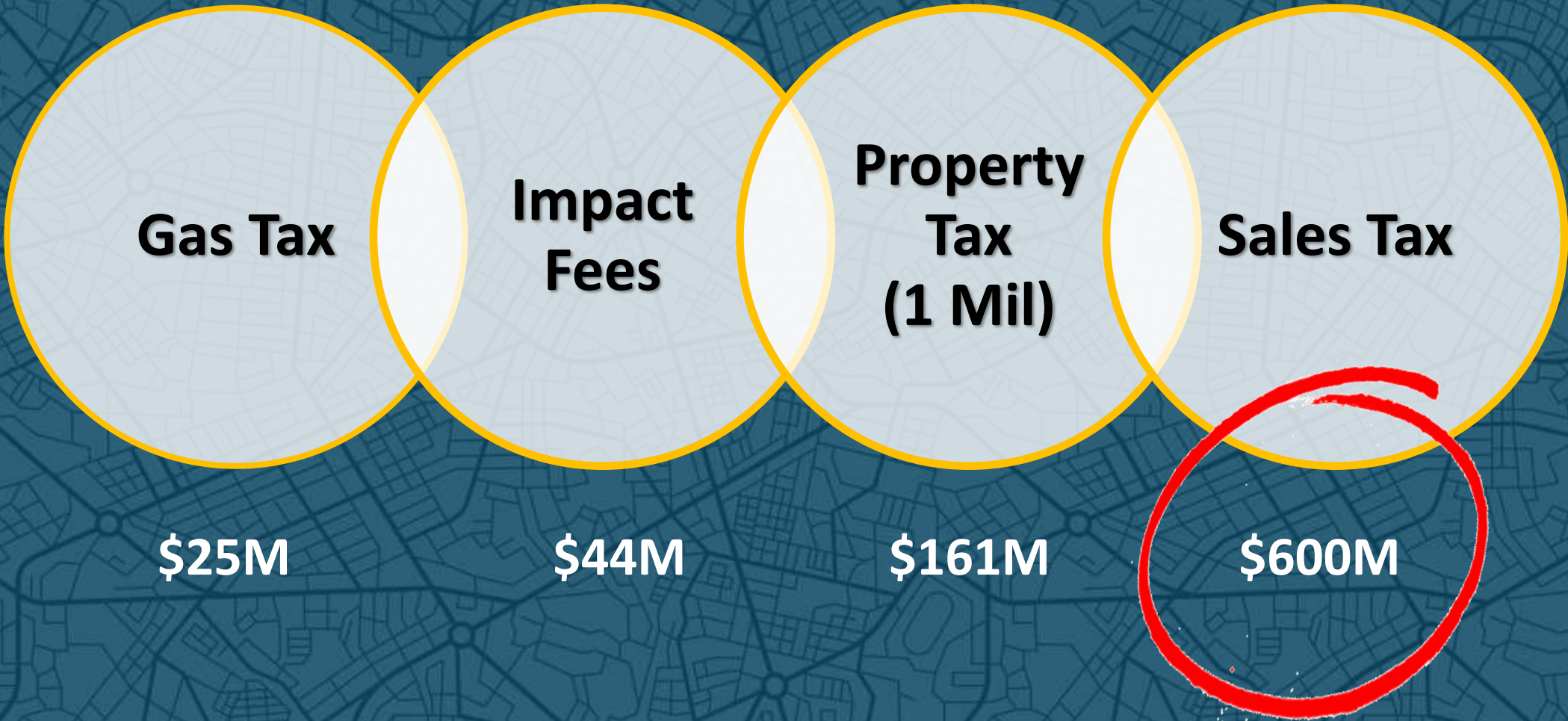
**Are the current transportation funding sources sufficient?**

**No.**

**The existing funding sources do not generate the amount of revenue necessary to address the needs and priorities the board and citizens have identified.**



# Increased Local Funding Options





**Can we use TDT funds to pay for these transportation improvements?**

**No.**

**Tourist Development Tax (TDT) uses are defined by Florida Statutes and currently Orange County does not meet the criteria required for using TDT for transportation infrastructure.**



# Tourist Development Tax (TDT)

- Tourist development tax (TDT) uses are defined by Florida Statutes
- Recent legislation was passed that allows TDT funds to be used for infrastructure if:
  - 40% of TDT revenues are being used for tourism promotion
  - Independent analysis shows the infrastructure has positive impact on tourist-related business
- Tourism promotion funding to Visit Orlando is currently at 28.6% of TDT
- Sales tax is a more consistent source of revenue



**Will the sales tax keep developers from paying impact fees?**

**No.**

**Impact fees are a one-time charge to new development to fund public infrastructure to support new development. Impact fees cannot be used for most transit projects, safety enhancements, or operations and maintenance.**



**Will Federal/State grants fully cover our transportation needs?**

**No.**

**Most Federal and State grant programs require a local funding match in order to successfully compete for these grants. Federal grants will assist, however they will not be sufficient to meet the \$21B of needs that have been identified.**





**How will the transportation projects be prioritized?**

- **Data-Driven Prioritization Process**
- **Consistent with MetroPlan Orlando**
- **Safety – Crash Mitigation**
- **Capacity – Level of Service**
- **Operations and Maintenance – Condition and Life Cycle**



Is there a plan for east-west transit connectivity?

Yes.

Commuter Express Routes

East to Bithlo - West to Oakland  
on S.R. 408

Regional Express Routes

S.R. 417, S.R. 429, and S.R. 528

High Capacity Corridors

S.R. 50 West to Ocoee – East to UCF  
Silver Star Rd – AdventHealth SunRail  
to Health Central Ocoee  
Oak Ridge & Sand Lake Rd – OIA to  
Universal Orlando

Rail

Orlando International Airport  
connection



**Does Orange County have the capacity to handle all of these projects?**

**Yes.**

- **General Engineering Consultant (GEC) Program Management Model**
- **New Continuing Consultant Contracts**
- **New Construction Term Contracts**
- **Expanded Project Delivery Methods**
- **Technology**



**Will local small, minority and women-owned businesses benefit from the transportation initiative ?**

**Yes.**

- **M/WBE firm certification as DBE (for access to Federal funding)**
- **Insurance and bonding programs**
- **Mobilization payments**
- **Bid package sizes to increase opportunities for M/WBE firms bidding as prime contractors**



**What types of projects could the community see in the next few years?**

***LYNX***

- **Increased frequency to core bus network**
- **Regional Express Routes**
- **Expanded NeighborLink Service – more vehicles**
- **Bus Shelters, Benches and Informational signage**
- **Reduced Fare Program**



What types of projects could the community see in the next few years?

*County*

- Roadway and Pedestrian Lighting
- Sidewalks
- Technology – pedestrian and bicycle safety
- ADA projects
- Resurfacing
- Previously designed/partially funded/shovel-ready projects



**Will this plan be transparent?**

**Yes.**

**Technical  
Committee**

- **Multijurisdictional staff committee that meets regularly to discuss the status of projects submitted by each jurisdiction**
- **Reviews the approved projects list to ensure compatibility and coordination among jurisdictions**
- **Identifies opportunities for joint projects and project collaboration**



## Will this plan be transparent?

### Citizens Oversight Board

- Ensures accountability and transparency in expenditure of sales tax proceeds (does not approve or prioritize projects)
- Ensures County, cities, LYNX, and other funding recipients are spending funds appropriately, timely, and in full compliance with all applicable laws.
- Fields of finance or accounting, transportation mobility improvements operations, or land use planning
- Requests/reviews audits of the transportation program by the Orange County Comptroller



**Will this plan be transparent?**

**Board of County  
Commissioners**

- **Reviews and approves projects**
- **Consistent with Florida Statutes**



# Oversight Structure

**Citizens of Orange County**

**Board of County  
Commissioners**

**Technical  
Committee**

**Citizens Oversight  
Board**

**Comptroller**



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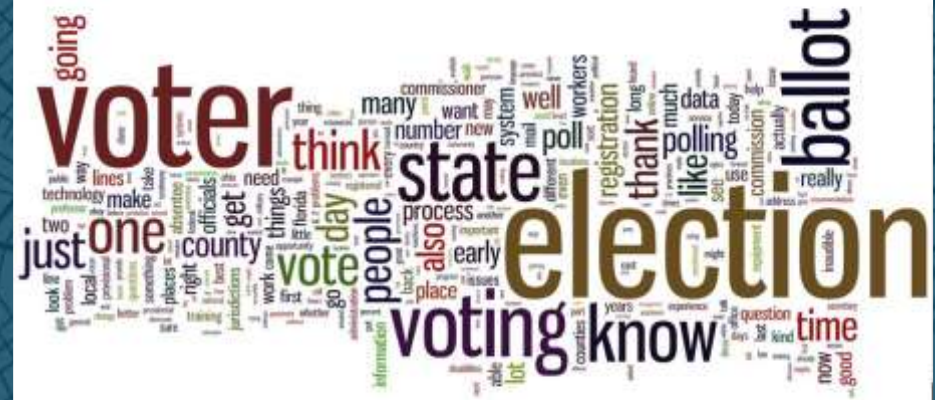
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# Legal Documents

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# Ordinance

- **Levies 1% Charter County and Regional Transportation System Sales Surtax for a period of 20 years**
- **Levy subject to approval by majority of County electors voting in referendum election**
- **Calls for referendum during general election - November 8, 2022**
- **If approved by majority of electorate, surtax commences on January 1, 2023 and expires on December 31, 2042**
- **Creates the Transportation Improvement Trust Fund**



# Ordinance

- **Requires adoption of Transportation Initiative Report by resolution**
- **Requires interlocal agreements with municipalities and transportation authorities**
- **Invites routine audits of surtax expenditures**
- **Contains automatic repeal and sunset provisions**
- **Includes official ballot title and summary**



## Ballot Title and Summary

### **BALLOT**

Orange County, Florida

#### **Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax**

Shall a Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax at the rate of one percent (1%) be levied in Orange County, Florida for a period of 20 years with revenue deposited into a trust fund dedicated exclusively to transportation and transit improvement uses authorized by law, with oversight and accountability for the revenue provided by a citizen oversight board and the elected comptroller, as approved by the Board of County Commissioners?

\_\_\_ FOR the one-cent sales tax

\_\_\_ AGAINST the one-cent sales tax



# Resolution

- Establishes the funding categories and the percentage of surtax proceeds that will be allocated
- Adopts the Transportation Initiative Report
- Creates the Technical Committee
  - Comprised of staff appointees from County, LYNX, municipalities, and other agencies
  - Focus is project coordination and collaboration among jurisdictions
- Creates the Citizens Oversight Board
  - Comprised of non-elected, citizen appointees from County and municipalities
  - Focus is financial accountability and transparency



# Requested Action

APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO TAXATION IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE AND LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; LEVYING ON ALL TAXABLE TRANSACTIONS A ONE PERCENT (1%) CHARTER COUNTY AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM SALES SURTAX (“TRANSPORTATION SURTAX”) FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 212.054 AND 212.055(1), FLORIDA STATUTES; CREATING A SEGREGATED TRUST FUND INTO WHICH ALL TRANSPORTATION SURTAX PROCEEDS SHALL BE DEPOSITED; PROVIDING THAT THE TRANSPORTATION SURTAX WILL TAKE EFFECT ONLY UPON APPROVAL BY THE ELECTORATE; CALLING A REFERENDUM; PROVIDING BALLOT LANGUAGE; REQUIRING PUBLIC NOTICE OF SUCH REFERENDUM; AND PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND EXPIRATION OR “SUNSET” DATES

AND

APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE REPORT



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# Summary



- Extensive community engagement in the preparation of the plan
- Transparency and Accountability Provisions
- Significantly Improves Conditions and Lowers Costs for Transit Dependent County Residents
- Improves safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
- New and improved complete roads to reduce congestion
- Provides east-west transit connectivity





- Provides 7-day/week, late night, more frequent SunRail Service



- Expands access to jobs for many County residents



- Adds miles of streetlights, sidewalks, ADA enhancements



- Provides opportunities and support for Minority and Women-Owned Businesses



- Positive impact on the local economy



- Addresses one of the most persistent and pervasive community challenges identified by County residents



# Economic Impact Update

**Video with clips from Economic Summit**



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